



ASSOCIATION OF  
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA  
GOVERNMENTS

# GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair

**Tim Rudek**

Harrah Councilmember

Vice-Chair

**Vickie Douglas**

Warr Acres Mayor

Secretary/Treasurer

**Mark Sharpton**

Logan County Commissioner

Executive Director

**Mark W. Sweeney, AICP**

**AGENDA:** THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 30, 2025  
2:30 P.M.

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

4205 N. Lincoln Blvd. | Oklahoma City, OK 73105 | 405.234.2264 | [acogok.org](http://acogok.org)

**THE GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025, AT ACOG IN THE OKLAHOMA BOARD ROOM, 4205 N. LINCOLN BLVD., OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.**

Please notify ACOG at 405.234.2264 (TDD/TTY Call 711 Statewide or [email title.vi@acogok.org](mailto:title.vi@acogok.org)), by 5 p.m. Monday, October 27, if you require accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

## AGENDA

---

1. **CALL TO ORDER** ([ATTACHMENT 1](#))
2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - AUGUST 28, 2025** ([ATTACHMENT 2](#)) *Action requested.*
3. **STAFF REPORT:** John Harrington, Interim Water Resources Director *For information only.*
  - A. Drought Update ([ATTACHMENT 3-A](#))
  - B. Another New U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Study ([ATTACHMENT 3-B](#))
  - C. Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) Limits Withdrawal Rates in NW Oklahoma ([ATTACHMENT 3-C](#))
4. **PROGRESS REPORT:** John Harrington, Interim Water Resources Director ([ATTACHMENT 4](#)) *For information only.*
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
6. **ADJOURN**

---

### NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 2:30 p.m.

# ATTACHMENT 1

## GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
BETHANY	Hon. Amanda Sandoval Mayor	Hon. Chris Powell Councilmember
		Hon. Kathy Larsen Councilmember
CALUMET	Hon. Laurie Morris Mayor	Hon. Terry Brungardt Trustee
CHOCTAW	Hon. Cody Brewer Councilmember	Hon. Chad Allcox Mayor
CRESCENT	Hon. Greg Cummings Mayor	Vacant
DEL CITY	Hon. Floyd Eason Mayor	Hon. Pam Finch Vice-Mayor
		Hon. Claudia Browne Councilmember
EDMOND	Hon. Mark A. Nash Mayor	Hon. Maggie Murdock Nichols Councilmember
EL RENO	Hon. Amy Neathery Councilmember	Hon. J. Steven Jensen Trustee
		Hon. David Black Vice-Mayor
FOREST PARK	Hon. William Jones Trustee	Hon. George Smith Mayor
		Hon. Stephen Miller Trustee
GEARY	Hon. Sandra Cleveland Councilmember	Hon. Lois Hicks Mayor
		Hon. Darla Golden Councilmember
GOLDSBY	Hon. Kari Madden Vice-Mayor	Hon. David White Trustee
GUTHRIE	Hon. Grant Aguirre Councilmember	Hon. Jeff Taylor Councilmember
HARRAH	Hon. Tim Rudek Councilmember	Hon. Jennifer McCammond Councilmember
		Hon. Bill Lisby Councilmember
JONES CITY	Hon. Casey Burwell Trustee	Hon. Dan Wells Mayor
		Hon. Scott Meyer Trustee
LANGSTON CITY	Hon. Michael Boyles Mayor	Hon. Magnus Scott Trustee
		Hon. Misty B. Mayes Trustee
LEXINGTON	Hon. Mike Donovan Mayor	Hon. TaRena Furr Vice-Mayor
		Hon. Max Punneo Councilmember
LUTHER	Hon. Carla Caruthers Vice-Mayor	Hon. Cindy Harris Baker Trustee
		Hon. William T. Arps Mayor

## GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
MIDWEST CITY	Hon. Matt Dukes Mayor	Hon. Pat Byrne Vice-Mayor
		Hon. Rick Favors Councilmember
MOORE	Hon. Kathy Griffith Councilmember	Any Moore Councilmember
MUSTANG	Vacant	Hon. James Wald Councilmember
NICHOLS HILLS	Hon. Sody Clements Vice-Mayor	Hon. Colin M. FitzSimons Councilmember
NICOMA PARK	Hon. Mark Cochell Mayor	Hon. Mike Czerczyk Councilmember
NOBLE	Hon. Phil Freeman Mayor	Hon. George Schmerer Councilmember
		Hon. Chad Terrill Councilmember
NORMAN	Hon. Stephen T. Holman Mayor	Hon. Scott Dixon Councilmember
OKARCHIE	Hon. Jeff Brueggen Trustee	Hon. Judd Kroener Trustee
OKLAHOMA CITY	Hon. Matt Hinkle Councilmember	Any Oklahoma City Councilmember
PIEDMONT	Hon. Rob Jones Councilmember	Hon. Byron Schlomach Councilmember
		Hon. Matt Myers Councilmember
SLAUGHTERVILLE	Hon. Kathy Snellbaker Trustee	Hon. Leah Grady Trustee
SPENCER	Hon. Frank Calvin Mayor	Hon. Charmin Williams Vice Mayor
THE VILLAGE	Hon. David Bennett Councilmember	Hon. Braxton Banks Vice-Mayor
TUTTLE	Hon. Trey Buck Councilmember	Hon. Larry Watson Councilmember

## GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
UNION CITY	Hon. James Smith Trustee	Hon. Chad Fisher Trustee
WARR ACRES	Hon. Vickie Douglas Mayor	Hon. Judy Myers Councilmember
YUKON	Hon. Shelli Selby Councilmember	Vacant
CANADIAN COUNTY	Hon. Lacey Dawson Commissioner	Hon. Tomas Manske Commissioner
		Hon. Tracey Rider Commissioner
CLEVELAND COUNTY	Hon. Rusty Grissom Commissioner	Hon. Rod Cleveland Commissioner
LOGAN COUNTY	Hon. Mark Sharpton Commissioner	Hon. Monty Piearcy Commissioner
		Hon. Floyd Coffman Commissioner
OKLAHOMA COUNTY	Hon. Myles Davidson Commissioner	Hon. Brian Maughan Commissioner
TINKER AIR FORCE BASE (Associate Member)	Stephanie Wilson Base Civil Engineer	Vacant



## ATTACHMENT 2

### SUBJECT:

#### MINUTES OF THE GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

### DATE:

AUGUST 28, 2025

A regular meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee (GWAPC) convened at 2:59 p.m., Thursday, August 28, 2025, at Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) in the Oklahoma Board Room, 4205 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held, as indicated, by advance notice filed with the Oklahoma County Clerk and by notice posted at the ACOG offices at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

#### PRESIDING CHAIR

Hon. Tim Rudek, Councilmember

#### ENTITY

Harrah

#### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Mark A. Nash, Mayor  
Hon. William Jones, Trustee  
Hon. Kari Madden, Vice-Mayor  
Hon. Misty Mayes, Trustee  
Hon. Matt Dukes, Mayor  
Hon. Kathy Griffith, Councilmember  
Hon. Matt Hinkle, Councilmember  
Hon. Rob Jones, Councilmember  
Hon. Kathy Shellbaker, Trustee  
Hon. Vickie Douglas, Mayor  
Hon. Judy Myers, Councilmember  
Hon. Shelli Selby, Councilmember  
Hon. Lacey Dawson, Commissioner  
Hon. Mark Sharpton, Commissioner

#### ENTITY

Edmond  
Forest Park  
Goldsby  
Langston  
Midwest City  
Moore  
Oklahoma City  
Piedmont  
Slaughterville  
Warr Acres  
Warr Acres  
Yukon  
Canadian County  
Logan County

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT

None

#### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Hon. Amanda Sandoval, Mayor  
Hon. Laurie Morris, Mayor  
Hon. Cody Brewer, Councilmember  
Hon. Greg Cummings, Mayor  
Hon. Floyd Eason, Mayor  
Hon. Amy Neathery, Councilmember  
Hon. Sandra Cleveland, Councilmember  
Hon. Grant Aguirre, Councilmember  
Hon. Casey Burwell, Trustee  
Hon. Mike Donovan, Mayor  
Hon. Carla Caruthers, Vice-Mayor  
Hon. James Wald, Councilmember  
Hon. Sody Clements, Vice-Mayor  
Hon. Mark Cochell, Mayor  
Hon. Phil Freeman, Mayor  
Hon. Stephen T. Holman, Mayor  
Hon. Jeff Bruegggen, Trustee  
Hon. Frank Calvin, Mayor  
Hon. David Bennett, Councilmember  
Hon. Trey Buck, Councilmember  
Hon. James Smith, Trustee

#### ENTITY

Bethany  
Calumet  
Choctaw  
Crescent  
Del City  
El Reno  
Geary  
Guthrie  
Jones City  
Lexington  
Luther  
Mustang  
Nichols Hills  
Nicoma Park  
Noble  
Norman  
Okarche  
Spencer  
The Village  
Tuttle  
Union City

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)**

Hon. Rusty Grissom, Commissioner  
Hon. Myles Davidson, Commissioner

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Stephanie Wilson, Base Civil Engineer

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Pete White, Attorney  
Casey Davis, Attorney  
Steve Griffith, Citizen  
Andrew Fleet, Extension Educator  
Hon. Braxton Banks, Vice-Mayor

**ACOG STAFF PRESENT**

Mark W. Sweeney  
John Harrington  
John Sharp  
Jimmy Smith  
Beverly Garner

**ENTITY**

Cleveland County  
Oklahoma County

**ENTITY**

Tinker Air Force Base

**ENTITY/AGENCY/BUSINESS**

ACOG Legal Counsel  
Davis Law Group  
Moore  
OK County OSU Extension  
The Village

**POSITION**

Executive Director  
Interim Water Resources Director  
Deputy Director  
IT Operations Specialist I  
Executive Assistant

## MINUTES

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Presiding Chair Tim Rudek called the meeting to order at 2:59 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JUNE 26, 2025**

Councilmember Kathy Griffith made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2025, Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee meeting. Trustee Misty B. Mayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. STAFF REPORT****A. Drought Update**

Mark Sweeney said that John Harrington is serving as the Interim Water Resources Director on a retainer basis, and he has been very gracious to help us search for a replacement.

Mr. Harrington said he has a caveat – all the maps seen are based on data three days ago and since then, there has been about three inches of rain that has fallen in Central Oklahoma. The present drought map – three days with three inches of rain is significant. Looks like there will be a dry September.

Aquifer recharge in July – western Logan County got the most rain, but the rest of Central Oklahoma was dry.

Cumulative aquifer recharge map – Everything is now above 100 percent – The metro area is about 184 percent of normal. We will probably have a 50+ inch year in terms of rainfall, which will put it into the top 10 landfall events of the last century. April, May, and June totally blew through the ceiling, July not much, but if we do not get anything at all, we still will bust out around four inches, with normal being about 2.5 inches. This is a one in twenty-year event when it comes to recharge. The next year will probably be the same as last year – six months very dry like last September to April was pretty dry, and then we got the spring rains. Surface water is in good shape.

Seasonal Drought Outlook – released August 21, 2025 – They are still looking at Central Oklahoma, saying Oklahoma should be drought free for at least a while. Mayor Dukes said that Tuttle, Newcastle, and Blanchard are coming down tremendously and most of those houses are on wells, so where did the legislative bill go on getting developers to drill wells before they develop. Mr. Harrington said with water being as plentiful as it is today, he does not expect to get any serious water bills to go through for the rest of the year.

Commissioner Mark Sharpton said maybe we could look at it from the oil well side – make the tent bigger. Mayor Dukes said ACOG and OML can make it a legislative issue. Mr. Harrington said we will have to think creatively about how to get water to that part of the world. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are still up in the air, and we will need to wait on this bill until that settles.

**B. Notice of Intent Now Required for Cased Test Holes**

Mr. Harrington said there is a rule change for test holes, covering a loophole. Those with test wells were not filing the paperwork for it to become an industrial well. That way they could get around having to submit a multi-operational report to ODEQ and could pump and not have to monitor how much they were pumping because they were a “test” well.

Now they must put a “Notice of Intent,” which flags the location, and the Water Resources Board knocks on their door in a year, asking if the test well is in operation. If so, they must start submitting the paperwork.

Trustee William Jones, speaking of the pot farms, asked if there is a requirement to measure or meter how much water they are using – what their permit says.

Mr. Harrington said there was actually a bill that went to the Governor’s desk, which mandated that you meter your well and he was not sure if it was signed. Andrew Fleet said that the Governor did veto the bill, and it did not go into effect.

Mr. Harrington said most of the time you are allocated two-acre feet per acre, and you cannot manage what you cannot measure.

**C. US Geological Survey (USGS) Study – Orphan Wells**

Mr. Harrington said occasionally, Garber-Wellington gets into the news. KGOU mentioned that USGS did not sign total environment. They were comparing the aquifer just east of us from Seminole up to Chandler, which has more orphan wells (wells that have been abandoned or just sitting there) to Garber-Wellington, which ranks fourth. It sounds more ominous than it really is.

**4. PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. Harrington said ACOG is still looking for a replacement for his position. Mr. Sweeney added that they have already had some interviews but are still looking.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to report.

**6. ADJOURN**

There being no other business, Chair Rudek adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.





## ATTACHMENT 3-A

### SUBJECT

#### DROUGHT UPDATE

### DATE:

OCTOBER 30, 2025

### FROM:

#### JOHN HARRINGTON

Interim Water Resources Director

### INFORMATION:

Drought has returned, and to add to that statement, drought has returned to Central Oklahoma. Central Oklahoma has not seen stage 2 drought for over a year, and then only very briefly. Real drought in this area was last seen in April 2023.

Recharge to the aquifer over the past few months has been negligible; however, this is about par for the course. The lowest recharge comes in the months between July and September. October might have some recharge, but that usually depends on the hurricane situation. This year we have had no hurricanes in the Gulf, which usually gives Oklahoma some moisture from the south.

The good news is that we have already exceeded the annual recharge for the year, so we have plenty of moisture to rely on for the dry months. In addition, the surface water situation still looks fairly good.

Looking forward, the long-term models show a weak La Nina may hang around until the end of the year. Then comes some good news – an El Nino condition for next spring. El Nino usually brings good moisture to this part of the world. So, this may be a very short-term drought that we are in. And we are in decent shape to manage a short-term drought!

### ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



## ATTACHMENT 3-B

### SUBJECT:

**ANOTHER NEW U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) STUDY**

### DATE:

OCTOBER 30, 2025

### FROM:

**JOHN HARRINGTON**

Interim Water Resources Director

### INFORMATION

Approximately 71 to 95 million people in the Lower 48 states – more than 20 percent of the country's population – may rely on groundwater that contains detectable concentrations of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, also known as PFAS, for their drinking water supplies. These findings are according to a U.S Geological Survey study published Oct. 24 in the journal **Science** (*Predictions of groundwater PFAS occurrence at drinking water supply depths in the United States*).

The study mapped PFAS on a nationwide scale, but looking at the data distribution, it shows that for Oklahoma, the study only used data from the Ogallala Aquifer.

However, the study did make one interesting observation. "PFAS are anthropogenic compounds first developed in the 1930s and therefore are only expected to be present in groundwater that includes modern recharge." Much of the municipal supplies from the Garber-Wellington Aquifer are centuries old – some samples indicate up to 10,000 years old. Thus, the PFAS issue may be much more restricted to domestic wells, especially along the east side of the aquifer which has the youngest water.

### ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



## ATTACHMENT 3-C

### SUBJECT:

**OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD (OWRB) LIMITS WITHDRAWAL RATES IN NW OKLAHOMA**

### DATE:

OCTOBER 30, 2025

### FROM:

**JOHN HARRINGTON**

Interim Water Resources Director

### INFORMATION

For the first time in 42 years, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) reviewed its first major update to groundwater permit limits. The change was the result of decreasing supplies of groundwater in northwest Oklahoma.

The new plan will cut allocations for new groundwater permits from one acre-foot per acre a year to half that amount. It was the result of decreasing supplies of groundwater in northwest Oklahoma. Existing groundwater permits will not be affected but those drilling new water wells will face tighter restrictions.

Chris Neel, chief of the OWRB's Water Resources Division, encouraged landowners to apply for new permits before the proposed changes take effect. "If you want that one acre-foot per acre, apply for an amendment or a water right to get your one-acre," Neel said. "The purpose of these maximum annual yield studies is to protect every one of you who already has a one-acre-foot per acre. We go in and look at the aquifer studies to have a managed draw-down, by state statute."

The board's updated yield study was based on declining water levels and outdated data — the last comprehensive aquifer analysis was completed in 1983. That study established 600-foot well spacing, a rule still in effect today. One might say that this is a good case for establishing mandatory metering of wells in order to substantiate the need to cut allocations.

### ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



## ATTACHMENT 4

**SUBJECT:**  
**PROGRESS REPORT**

**DATE:**  
OCTOBER 30, 2025

**FROM:**  
**JOHN HARRINGTON**  
Interim Water Resources Director

### **INFORMATION**

The search for a new manager for the Water Resources Department is continuing. John Harrington is on retainer with ACOG to make this transition as smooth as possible, and to conduct the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee meetings until a replacement has been found.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**  
For information only.